

Balkan Background to European War Looks Up Large

Trade as Well as National Aspirations Involved. Characteristics of an Agricultural People. Rumania's Varied Resources Well Developed—Bulgaria's Attar of Roses and Other Products—Serbia's Swine a Source of Wealth—Prospective Shifting of Balkan Traffic From Continental Countries to Ocean Routes—Importance of Outlets on the Aegean and Black Seas Market for American Commodities Diplomatic Relations With the United States a Factor.

is a large exportation of meats to other European countries. Mineral wealth is also included in Rumania's natural resources. There are coal mines, but the oil wells are the most valuable asset.

Rumanian oil competes with the Russian product. In some years the output equals one-fifth of the total world production. The government has fostered the oil industry, and has kept control so that any limitation on the output is in its hands instead of in the hands of private parties. These Rumanian oil wells may be considered a war resource as well as a peace possession.

Bulgaria's agricultural resources include wheat, barley, oats, corn, clover and vegetables. Its agriculture is not very much advanced, and probably on export comparatively than in Rumania, but there is the capacity for production in excess of the wants of the Bulgarian population.

Livestock is also a Bulgarian industry. Some meat is exported, and here, too, there is a capacity for considerable export production. Bulgaria also produces silk cocoons for export.

Attar of roses is Bulgaria's most famous product. It has a universal reputation. The world gets its supply of this perfume essence from the Valley of Tondja, better known as the Valley of Roses. The value of the export product exceeds \$1,000,000 annually, which is quite an item in the export trade of the country.

Oil of geranium adds somewhat to the attar of rose product, which is shipped abroad. It is an adulterant, and is worth about \$2.50 per pound, while attar of roses runs from \$125 per pound upward.

Coal mines are also among Bulgaria's natural resources, although they have not been exploited extensively.



NATIONAL DANCE OF BULGARIAN PEASANTS.

Serbia has a sea passage for her products and for her imports.

No one will venture to predict at the present time how far the trade relations of the Balkan states will be affected by the yet unworkable results of the war, but that future commerce will owe much of its expansion to the sea front is clear. Whether the present belligerents will exercise a predominant influence on account of financing the different countries, or at least an

influence proportionate to their financial resources, may be doubted. France, after the Balkan war, was undertaking to finance Serbia by means of loans, and was securing various contracts and concessions as the price of those loans. But Serbia is now the ward of the allies, and when the war is over what is left of her population is not apt to distinguish between peace and war loans. Neither England nor France ever showed any affection for Serbia, and England especially showed displeasure at the little country's attitude.

Rumania, before the war, had floated loans as a part of her national policy, but without too great mortgaging of her resources. When the war came on her statesmen calmly informed the allies

that a loan of \$25,000,000 was wanted, and that it was not likely to be secured. The British loan as binding her commercially to Great Britain, except as Great Britain may want her surplus wheat.

Bulgaria, before hostilities broke out, had negotiated a loan of \$100,000,000 in Germany to repair the waste of her war with Turkey, which was made more complete by the subsequent war with Greece and Serbia, her former allies. Important concessions were given the German capitalists, including the exploitation of the coal mines.

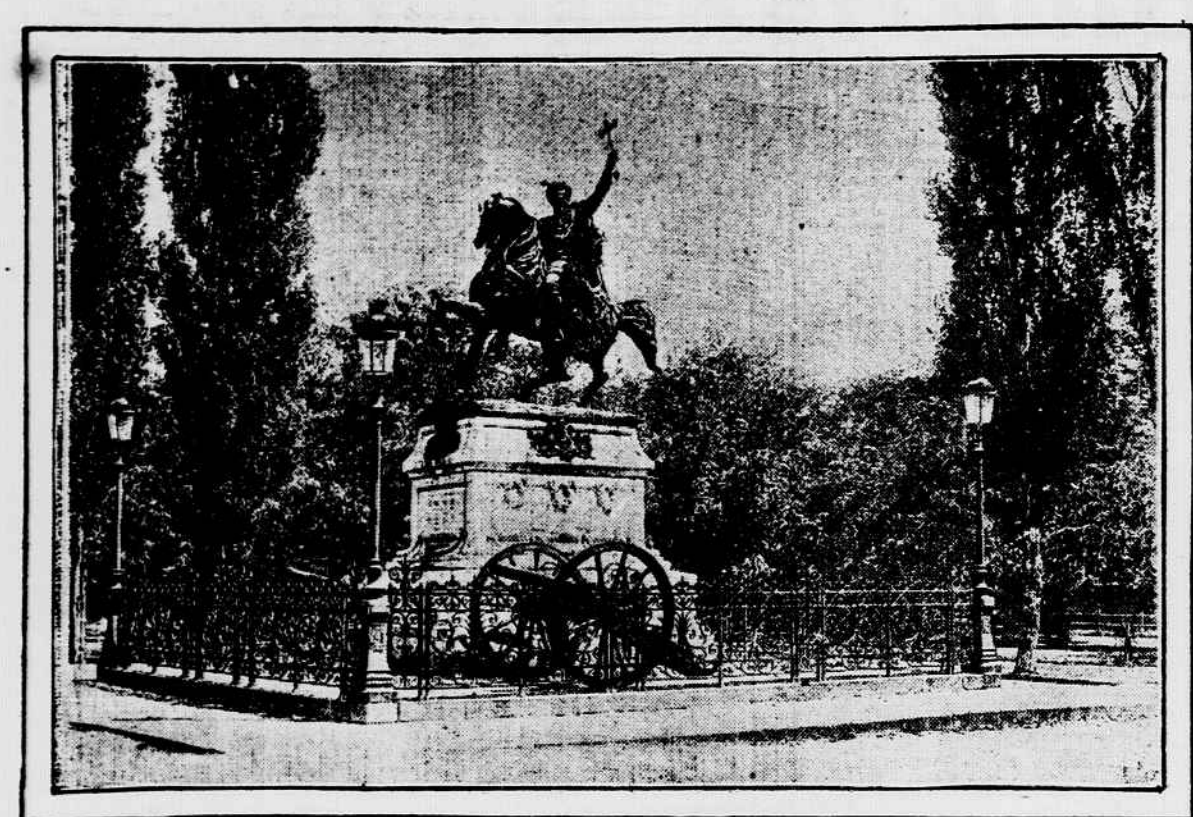
No advance had been made on this loan when the present hostilities broke out. Germany, however, not long ago advanced \$30,000,000, and the intention was that, notwithstanding the tremendous drain on her resources, the full amount would be paid over. One hundred million dollars is not a big price for Germany to pay for Bulgaria's neutrality, or for her possible alliance.

The United States always has looked on the Balkans as purely a European prize puzzle. At the same time there has been a sentimental interest in them. The Bulgarian atrocities, when Disraeli was exerting the full power of the British empire to smother the publicity given them and to maintain the Turk in Europe, excited as much indignation in the United States as they did with that large section of the British public which responded to Gladstone's denunciations. There were many Bulgarians in this country, and their presence also added to the feeling of sympathy.

It has been known only in a general way, because few Rumanians come to the United States, and there has been little direct intercourse. The Rumanians with the gypsies and with Bulgarians in this country, however, a commission came from Rumania to the United States to buy war munitions.

Serbia, for a time, was the object of reproach, because the little country was thought of by the English public opinion. During the Balkan war, and afterward, during the war of Greece and Serbia with Bulgaria, while it was difficult to determine whether the Serbians committed more atrocities than the Bulgarians, the general trend of opinion was not favorable to the Serbians, notwithstanding that these had some able spokesmen in the United States.

The outbreak of the present war and the heroism of the Serbians in their stand against Austria changed public opinion, and since then they have received plenty of sentimental sympathy and occasionally a little practical aid. Yet there has been little progress in the knowledge of the Serbians as an agricultural people and the influence



MONUMENT TO MICHAEL THE BRAVE AT BUCHAREST.

single commonwealth on an economic basis, notwithstanding that there may be such a thing as a Balkan league, which will include the lesser Balkans, that is, Montenegro, Albania, Herzegovina and Bosnia, should the two latter provinces be wrested from Austria. The improbability of a Balkan commonwealth existing as a single power is sufficient reason for omitting further discussion of the intricate political question, with its plots and counterplots.

The trade aspect is more clear. The new international status of the Dardanelles and the Black sea, which everybody will be one result of the war, will have a direct influence on world commerce. The Balkan sea front on the Aegean and the Black seas will be entrepot of commerce, and the backdoor communication through the continent will have less importance.

In the economic sense there is no reason why there might not be one great Balkan state. The resources of Rumania, Bulgaria and Serbia are essentially similar. But there are the racial questions of Slav and Latin and Teuton, and the religious issue of Mohammedanism and Christianity of a barbaric sort.

These fundamental differences are sufficient to prevent the creation of a



NATIONAL BANK BUILDING, BUCHAREST, RUMANIA.

Eighteenth a Lucky Date for German Royal Family

Special Correspondence of The Star.

BERN, Switzerland, April 1, 1915. BEAUTIFUL painting is shown in one of the art stores. It represents the Garden of Eden. On the left Adam and Eve, on the right, they hear the voice of the Lord walking in the garden in the cool of the day. Separating the two scenes stands the fruit tree, the serpent twining round it in a figure eight.

As the notice states it is a copy of the fresco by Deger, on a gold ground, decorating the Gothic chapel of the German kaiser's Rhine castle of Stolzenfels. It is not for sale. It is an order in all Germany, and is a sentimental thing to possess a copy of this fresco.

Whereby hangs a tale.

It is no common fresco. Nor is Stolzenfels a common castle. It had a grandiose old Rhine history, but the French, in 1659, dismantled it. In 1823 the city of Coblenz presented its remains to the then German Prince of Prussia, who restored it magnificently in accordance with designs of Schinkel, Stüler and Persius. The grand fresco of the reception hall represents the Emperor Rupert and his young nephew, the Count of Hohenzollern, visiting the Archbishop of Treves in this very castle of Stolzenfels August 18, 1400.

Keep the date in mind.



THE FAMOUS HOHENZOLLERN FRESKO OF THE GARDEN OF EDEN AT THE KAISER'S RHINE CASTLE OF STOLZENFELS.

In the serpent making an eight or an interrogation mark? "I think that the boy is right," said the kaiser.

date when my ancestor would visit Stolzenfels for the first time, August 18, 1400, August being the eighth month, and 1400 the first year of his century, twice four is eight.

The tutor told the kaiser answer. "I'm not sure but what the boy is right. The eighteenth of the month is a presidential date in our great family. It was an 18th that blooded in the streets of Berlin happily welcomed the popular revolution of 1848."

Inquiry proves the exactness of his statement. The 18th comes out remarkably in the more recent history of Germany, Prussia and the Hohenzollerns, since Frederick I was crowned king January 18, 1701.

On an 18th was instituted the order of the Black Eagle. On an 18th the grandfather of the present kaiser was crowned King of Prussia. On an 18th he was proclaimed Emperor of Germany at Versailles. And on an 18th,

The Invasion of America.

(Continued From Fifth Page.)

Haven north to Hartford and from New London north to Worcester was being destroyed by their own ships. That could not be removed were being sent down grades to crash into wrecks, or blown up, or otherwise destroyed. The population that night, Prosperous, dignified citizens came out with axes and with oil and fire and helped in the ruin.

In fire and dirt and amid shattering roars of explosion and rumbling of falling trestles they worked on hundreds of miles of iron highway, desperately, frantically, shouting aloud, willing to tear their soft hands and to risk limb and even life, rather than to wait in active, and listen for news, and dream what was to happen.

They were tearing up their civilization, and they did it with a savage delight, that nothing might be left to the foe.

In the army headquarters, where a single short order had set loose all this saturnal of destruction, the commanding general and his staff were busy with something that was of more immediate importance to them. Desperately they were thrusting out for information, and always they were baffled by superior numbers, superior resources.

They had pushed cavalry toward the coast, and it had been driven back by artillery and long-range fire from the ships, whose aim was controlled by aeroplane signals from the sky and wireless from the shore. They had pushed out motor scouts, and the artillery had found them. Always at every approach, during the night or since daylight, the ships' fire had swept the roads.

Now, scarcely an hour after sunrise, the army started up the coast, and after only haphazard scouting, they had not been able to fly over the invaded coast.

They reported, they were met by enemy planes in superior numbers.

BEER AN ANCIENT DRINK

THE growth of the beer-drinking habit is a subject which engages the pens of statisticians the world over. Sometimes one is apt to get the inference, or some persons may get the inference, that beer is a new or a relatively new drink, and that it was discovered or invented by people who because of the climate in which they lived could not produce wine. In fact, beer is an ancient drink. Records of beer making and beer drinking go far back in the history of the world, but whether they reach as far back as the record of beverages made from grapes is a question, though not an important one to the people of the present. It has been said by classical students that the art or practice of brewing is one of the oldest arts or practices of which we have any knowledge, and that brewers constitute one of the oldest of the guilds.

Present knowledge or so many of the customs and practices of the remote past depend on statements contained in the writings of the historian Herodotus that the well-to-do and the rich were turning off, in regular order, one turned west, to fly over Long Island. The next one turned east, toward Buzzards bay. They alternated thus till the entire division had separated, and disappeared.

One of the scouts slapped his thigh. "I believe," said he, "that they are going to show themselves to Boston and New York."

That was 9 o'clock in the morning. At noon the crowd of the two cities grew, almost before they had first heard it, into a thundering that shook the earth. They stared upward and beheld the first squadron of armed flying machines that America ever had seen.

21. Estimates that were transmitted confidentially to this country by observers in Europe during the war, and which are being made by the following nations: France, 1,400; Germany, 1,200; Russia, 800; Italy, 600; England, 400; gradually greatly increased since the beginning of the war. Belgium, 100; the beginning, 100; Switzerland, 20, and Serbia, 100. The next one turned east, toward Buzzards bay. They alternated thus till the entire division had separated, and disappeared.

Charles F. Chandler of Columbia University, the Master Brewers' Association of the United States at Terrace Garden, N. Y., in October a year ago, gave it as his belief that brewing was known and practiced by the Egyptians a thousand years before the beginning of the Christian era. References tending to sustain that opinion may be read not only in the history of Egypt, but in the works of Pliny and the names of ancient writers making reference to this beverage might be multiplied to a considerable length. In the writings of Tacitus, which came from his pen, or still, in the first century of the Christian era, it may be read that beer was then the usual drink among the Germans. The early Romans knew of brewing, but whether they learned this from the people of Africa or the people to the north of them seems not to be a matter of present record. There is a story that it was the Romans who introduced the knowledge of brewing into Britain, though there are other indications that the people of the northern islands were adepts in

the fourth installment of "The Invasion of America" will appear next Sunday.

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Selfish.

HE naive, frank selfishness of the naive, frank selfishness of warring nations—it makes me think of the beggar," said Andrew Carnegie at a luncheon in New York.

"A beggar, muscular and well fed, asked a lady for a nickel.

"No, ma'am, I am not over-fond of work," the lady said.

"No, ma'am, I ain't," the beggar agreed. "How could I be? Work's wot killed my wife."